

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. In this amendment, claims 1-22 are amended and claims 23 and 24 are added. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

IDS

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement on April 9, 2010 and respectfully requests acknowledgement that these references have been considered.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Thiebot (US 2004/0162054, hereinafter "Thiebot"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites:

- (A) a TPF (traffic plane function) determining whether a bearer event matches an event trigger, if the bearer event matches an event trigger, proceeding to step B, and if the bearer event does not match the event trigger, proceeding to step C;
- (B) the TPF requesting charging rules from a CRF (charging rule function) and proceeding to step C; and
- (C) the TPF determining whether to perform a re-authorization process.

Applicant respectfully submits that Thiebot fails to teach or suggest all limitations of claim 1.

In rejecting step (A), the Office Action refers to paragraph [0030] and Fig. 3 where Thiebot discloses a "start of call event" message from the telephony network to the prepaid service SLP. In rejecting step (B), the Office Action argues that Thiebot at paragraph [0032] discloses a charging PPS server sending specific parameters, and thus charging rules. Finally, in rejecting former step (C) in which the TPF performing a re-authorization process is defined, the Office Action refers to paragraph [0035] by alleging that Thiebot discloses a re-authorization

process. That is, as the Office Action states, (1) the so alleged "start of call event" message is from the telephony network 301 to the prepaid service SLP 120, (2) it is the PPS server 102 that sends the so alleged specific parameters to the Plug-in module 114, and (3) it is the Prepaid Service SLP 120 that performs the so alleged re-authorization. (See paragraphs 0030, 32, 35 and Fig. 3 as cited by the Office Action). Clearly, in Thiebot, the so alleged "start of call event" message delivery, the specific parameters sending and the re-authorization process are not related to or performed/initiated by the same TPF or even any same network element. In contrast, in claim 1, all method steps (A), (B) and (C) are performed by the same TPF, i.e., "a TPF" in step (A) and "the TPF" in steps (B) and (C).

Thus, at least for the above reason, Thiebot fails to disclose the above elements of claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-11, 23 and 24 depend from claim 1 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable over the reference of record in view of their dependence on an allowable claim as well as the additional limitations.

For example, claim 2 directly depends from claim 1 and further recites that the TPF receiving a selected charging rule selected and returned by the CRF, which is also not disclosed or suggested by Thiebot, as Thiebot does not disclose charging rule at all.

Claim 3 directly depends from claim 2 and further recites the TPF providing the CRF with the bearer event. That is to say, claim 3 further specifies that the TPF shall inform the bearer event to the CRF, which is also not disclosed or suggested by Thiebot. The Office Action simply asserts that paragraph [0030] of Thiebot teaches the further elements of claim 3. However, it cannot be seen how Thiebot teaches these additional elements in claim 3.

Claim 4 directly depends from claim 2 and further defines that if the TPF determines that the bearer event matches the event trigger, the TPF determining whether to perform a re-authorization process comprises: said TPF determining whether said charging rule provided by CRF changes; and if the charging rule provided by the CRF changes, performing, by the TPF, the re-authorization process. The Office Action simply asserts that paragraph [0035] of Thiebot teaches the further elements in claim 4. However, it cannot be seen how and which element of Thiebot teaches these additional elements in claim 4.

Independent claim 12 is directed to a flow based charging system and recites a traffic plane function entity communicatively connected to a charging rule function entity and an online charging system (OCS), wherein, when a bearer modification occurs, the traffic plane function entity first determine, using an event trigger, whether to request a charging rule from the charging rule function entity, and then determine, using a re-authorization trigger, whether to perform a re-authorization process with the online charging system.

As discussed above with respect to claim 1, in claim 12, it is the same TPF entity that determines whether to request a charging rule from the charging rule function entity, and determines whether to perform a re-authorization process. In rejecting former claim 12, as with claim 1, the Office Action also refers to paragraphs [0030], [0035] and Fig. 3. Thus, at least for similar reason as discussed about claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Thiebot does not disclose the limitations of claim 12.

In addition, as presented in claim 12, it is when a bearer modification occurs that the TPF entity determines whether to perform a charging rules request and whether to perform a re-authorization process with OCS. However, Thiebot does not disclose or teach any bearer

modification at all. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is allowable over Thiebot.

Claims 13-17 depend from claim 12 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable over the references of record in view of their dependence on an allowable claim as well as the additional limitations.

Independent claim 18 recites when a bearer modification occurs, first determining, using an event trigger, whether to request a charging rule from a charging rule function (CRF) entity in a flow based charging system, the determining performed by a traffic plane function (TPF) entity in the flow based charging system; and then determining, by the TPF entity using a re-authorization trigger, whether to perform a re-authorization process with an online charging system (OCS) in the flow based charging system.

Claim 18 recites similar elements as those in claim 12. For example, when a bearer modification occurs, it is the same TPF that determines whether to request charging rule form CRF and whether to perform a re-authorization process. Thus, for reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 18 is allowable over Thiebot.

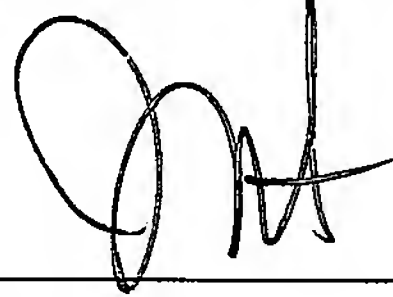
Claims 19-22 depend from claim 18 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable over the reference of record in view of their dependence on an allowable claim as well as the additional limitations.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Ira S. Matsil, Applicant's attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

9/17/10
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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